NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
January 8, 1999

Origins opens January 9!

On Saturday, January 9, 1999 the *Origins* exhibit on human evolution opens to the public, with a scheduled run through May 31. The exhibit's organizing concept, as developed by **Michelle Miller** and **Sibel Barut Kusimba**, helps visitors see human evolution as a process through which we have used language and technology in response to our environments.

The success of *Origins* reflects the efforts of many people. The Department of Anthropology, including Acting Chair **Alaka Wali** and Registrar **Janice Klein**, provided the expertise to ensure the exhibition's scientific accuracy and the inclusion of crucial objects to help tell the story. As always, **Pat Kremer** and the Public Relations Department and **Mary Ellen Munley** and the Education Department made sure that the exhibition's message was brought to the widest possible audience, and provided maximum educational benefit for our many families and school-age visitors.

Within Exhibits a dedicated team worked to create a rewarding experience for the visitor. 2-D Designer **Dirk Urban**, 3-D Designer **Michael Burns**, and Lighting Designer **Gosia Koscielak** developed a visual language that conveyed the excitement of the *Origins* story. For Coordination and Project Management on myriad details that may otherwise have been missed, credit and thanks to **Mia Schillace** and **Amy Costello**. **Pam Gaible**'s crew handled the delicate mounting of 157 artifacts, from hominid skulls to stone hand axes. Finally, recognition must go to those who actually cut, sculpt, bolt, glue, paint, drill, grind, measure, power, position, and hang the stuff that makes up an exhibit. Great thanks go to Production Supervisor **Susan Phillips** and the all-star *Origins* production cast:

Abe Bloom	**Bruce Heimbach**	**Kent Peaslee**
George Chavez	**Rick Hope**	**John Petreikis**
Harry Eddelman	**Lance Kirsch**	**Nina Sweeney**
Nel Fetherling	**Steve Lalik**	**Beth Tanner**
Amanda Flood	**Eric Manabat**	**Shelley Ulrich**
Rudy Garcia	**John-Henry Marshall**	**Steve Villano**
Heather Graff	**David Mendez**	**Trigg Waller**

Thank you all.

Submitted by **Matt Matcuk**

FIELD NOTES

Week of January 11

Public Events/Special Events

Museum Open Until 8 p.m. Monday

Dinosaurs and More
- Monday 10 a.m.

Music Theater Workshop
- Monday through Friday 5 p.m.
  Saturday 10 a.m. - LH2, Clrm C

Egypt Program
- Tuesday 9 a.m., MWH

Motorcycle Film Series
- Wednesday 1 p.m., 3 p.m.
  Saturday 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.
  Sunday 1 p.m.

The Motorcycle as a Cultural Icon
- Friday 6:30 p.m.
  Saturday 9 a.m.

Educators' Overnight
- Sunday - Monday

Staff/Volunteer Events

Staff Movie Night
- Wednesday 5 p.m., MWH

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday & Thursday 5 p.m.
  Ground Floor, East Stairwell

Audience Research Initiative Brown Bag Lunch
- Thursday Noon, Zoology Clrm

Museum Stores Inventory Hours
- Thursday

"TV Time" for Project Millennium

The Project Millennium team was busy this past week! They kicked off the year of programming with a well-attended family celebration at Navy Pier on New Year's Day – covered on the front page of the *Chicago Tribune* on January 2 (a full report and kudos will follow in next week's *Natural News*).

As if that wasn't enough, Wednesday night was the first episode of the live broadcast speaker series "Future Perfect: Conversations for a New Millennium." Field Museum trustee **Bill Kurtis** moderated a discussion between Richard Leakey and N. Scott Momaday out at WTTW's studios that was broadcast live on Channel 11 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6. There are a couple of rebroadcast dates, so check local listings. A year in the planning, this speaker series has benefited from the input of many colleagues here at the Museum, and serves to set the tone for the entire slate of Project Millennium programs.

Earlier on January 6, Richard Leakey visited the Museum to tour our new *Origins* exhibit, meet with scientific staff to discuss conservation issues in Kenya (where he is the Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service), and dine with trustees and Museum officials. While he was at the Museum he taped an interview with Morley Safer for a special Time Magazine/CBS News special report to be aired later this spring. Thank you to all staff who contributed their efforts to welcoming our guests.

Submitted by **Robin Wagner**

Museum Stores to close early for year-end inventory

The Museum Stores will close early for the year-end inventory on **Thursday, January 14**. The store closing hours are as follows:

Main Store will close at 3 p.m.
Dino Store will close at 3 p.m.
The Art of the Motorcycle kiosk will close at 3 p.m.
Kid's Market will close at 2 p.m.

Submitted by **Laura Sadler**

Special thanks to Corner Bakery

Thanks to Corner Bakery staff for providing free coffee and muffins to Museum staff who braved the winter storm to make it to work on Saturday and Sunday this past weekend. We appreciate your generosity and team spirit – not to mention the great muffins! Thank you!

Submitted by **Laura Sadler**

Need a winter escape?

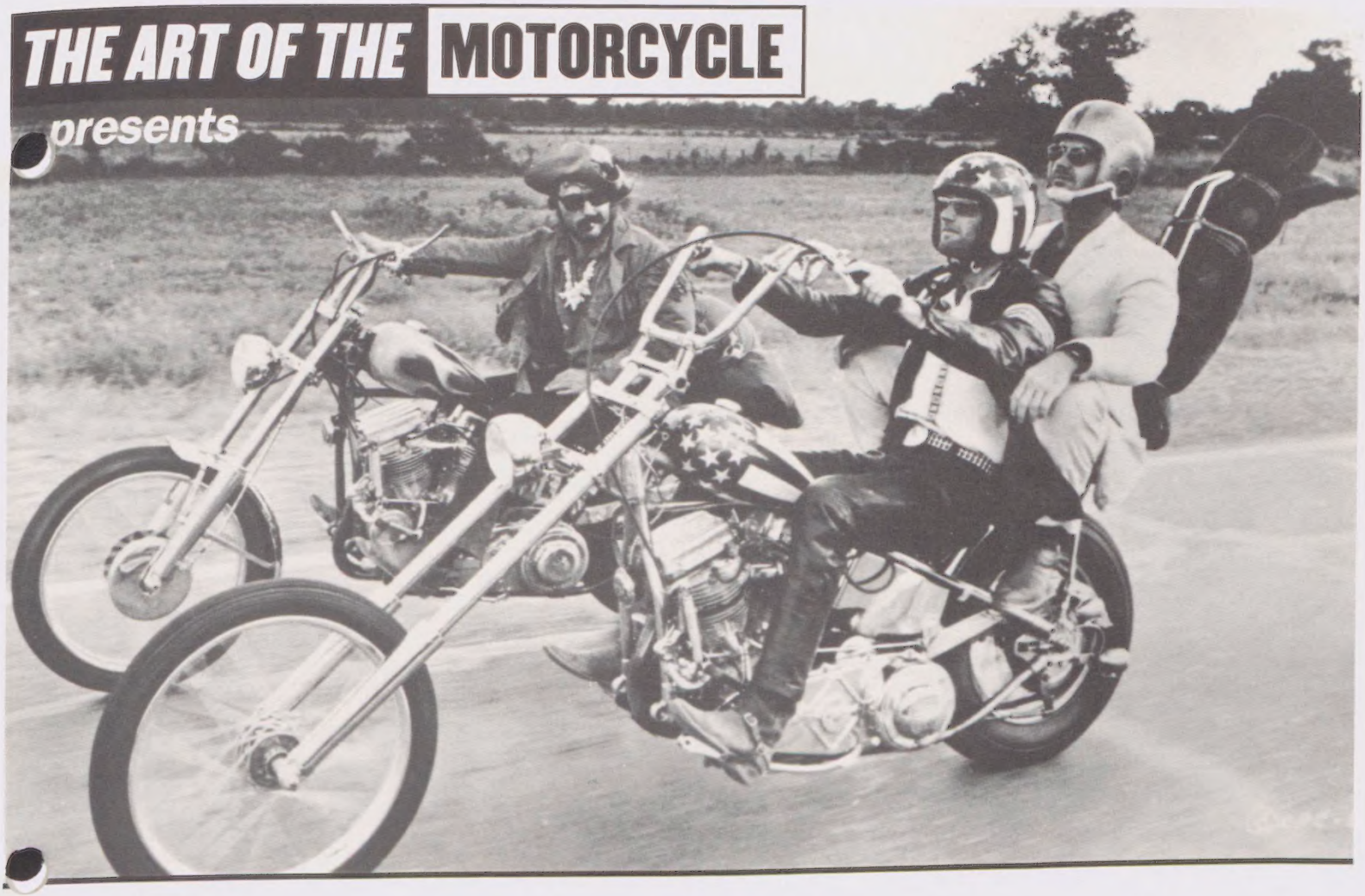
The next Staff Movie Night will be **Wednesday, January 13.** The featured movie will be *The Negotiator*, starring Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey. Come join us as Chicago's two top negotiators face off against one another in an intense hostage situation.

Where: Montgomery Ward Hall
Times: 5 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. Movie
Free Food!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Soda $1
Wine & Beer $2

Submitted by **Randy Scalf**

THE ART OF THE MOTORCYCLE

presents



THE MOTORCYCLE AS A CULTURAL ICON

with Special Guest Peter Fonda

Friday, January 15 – 6:30 p.m.

Join Peter Fonda for an exciting exploration into the meaning of the motorcycle as both artifact and invention. Fonda, an accomplished actor, writer, director and producer is legendary in biker culture with his starring role in the 1969 film classic, *Easy Rider*. Price includes a reception, entrance to **The Art of the Motorcycle** and a screening of *Easy Rider* at 9:30 p.m. This presentation kicks off the two-day **The Motorcycle as a Cultural Icon** symposium.

$35 ($30 Field Museum members)

Saturday, January 16 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Don't miss Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, world-renowned author of *Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience*, delivering his keynote remarks which continue our symposium. His remarks will be followed by two spirited panel discussions with leading experts on the motorcycle's impact on popular culture and design. A special poetry slam with slam master Marc Smith ends the day. Price includes admission to **The Art of the Motorcycle**, a continental breakfast and box lunch.

$30 ($25 Field Museum members)

The Field Museum

Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive • www.fmnh.org

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

- Congratulations to **Jocelyne Vaval-McGlorthan** and **Derek McGlorthan** on the birth of their son, Jean-Philipe, on Monday, December 21 at 10:14 a.m. He weighed 6 lbs., 5 oz. at birth and the whole family is doing well. We wish them a wonderful New Year with their new addition!
- The 1998 Accounting activity will be closed as of January 29, 1999. The last day we can accept requests for changes to the 1998 expense records will be **January 28, 1999**. Be advised that 1998 expense transfers, journal entry adjustments, charges to travel advances and travel expense reports cannot be accepted after January 28, 1999.

Attention all staff...

Mark your calendars for The Field Associates's upcoming event celebrating *The Art of the Motorcycle:*

HOGS IN THE HALL
A Ride Through The Ages
Food Fashion Funk
When: Friday, February 5, 6:30 p.m.
There will be a "Best of Leather" fashion frenzy at 9 p.m.
Where: Stanley Field Hall
Attire: Leather...

Tickets are $20 for staff, $45 for general public ($50 at the door). For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please call **Stephanie Powell** at ext. 846.

Special rate for volunteers and staff

Staff and volunteers are invited to attend the keynote presentation with Peter Fonda and the symposium, "The Motorcycle as a Cultural Icon." See the enclosed flyer for descriptions and times. Staff and volunteers can receive one complimentary ticket to the evening with Peter Fonda; guest tickets are $20. Attend Saturday's symposium for a discounted rate of $15. Call ext. 854 and talk to **Sandra Blake** or **Mark DeNardo** for more information or to make your reservations.

Submitted by **Kristen Webber**

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Laura Gates	Museum Affairs	5 years

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!

Educational Outcomes

of Museum Exhibits

Come to this month's Audience Research Initiative Brown Bag Lunch to learn about recent research on the interaction of cognitive style and instructional strategy on educational outcomes at a museum exhibit.

Our featured speaker will be

Dr. Naomi Knappenberger

Dr. Knappenberger recently received her Ph.D. in Instructional Technology from
the University of Virginia

She will talk about field independence/field dependence and its implication for the design of educational museum exhibits.

Audience Research Initiative Brown Bag Lunch

Thursday, January 14th at 12:00 p.m.
Zoology Classroom, 3rd Floor

For more information, contact Deborah Perry at 986-1134.